

REMARKS

In the instant application, claims 1-21 are under consideration. Claims 22-29 are deemed withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 1-12 have all been amended to change the recitation of "Therapeutic protein:X" to "Therapeutic protein X" in order to conform with the terminology used in the specification. See, for example, Table 1, pages 12-55, left column (reciting "Therapeutic protein X"). Claims 1 and 5-6 have also been amended to define "Therapeutic protein X" as at least one of the proteins listed in Table 1 of the specification (pages 12-55). Thus, the amended claims are fully supported by the specification. Each of the issues raised in the Office Action of August 20, 2003, are addressed herein below.

Oath/Declaration

The Office objected to the declaration because it allegedly contains a stray mark. However, Applicants' copy does not show a stray mark. Nevertheless, Applicants enclose a copy of the declaration, which does not contain a stray mark.

Provisional Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 1-21 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-21 of copending Application Nos. 09/833,111; 09/833,118; 09/832,929; 09/832,501; and 09/833,117. Applicants wish to point out that the Office has twice rejected claims 1-21 of the instant invention over copending Application No. 09/833,111, and also over the instant application itself, Application No. 09/833,118. Applicants also wish to bring to the Office's attention that responses to Office Actions in

compending Application Nos. 09/833,111 and 09/833,041 have been filed separately on the same date as in the instant application.

Applicants traverse the provisional statutory double patenting rejection. The Office appears to be of the opinion that all of the compending applications claim the same subject matter, i.e. any therapeutic protein fused to human serum albumin (HSA). However, the claims are directed to fusion proteins in which HSA is fused to a "Therapeutic protein X," wherein such "Therapeutic protein X" is at least one or more of the therapeutic proteins listed in Table 1 (pages 12-55) of the specification. To clarify, Applicants have amended the independent claims 1 and 5-6 to state that "Therapeutic protein X is selected from at least one of the proteins set forth in Table 1." In each compending application, "Therapeutic protein X" is limited to the proteins listed in Table 1 in their respective applications. Each application discloses a different list of "Therapeutic protein X" in Table 1. Therefore, the applications do not claim the same invention and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13-14 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by WO 97/24445 ("Delta"), or its Korean equivalent, KR99076789.

A finding of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that "each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987). This standard precludes any finding of anticipation of the instant claims by Delta.

The Office alleges that Delta discloses serum albumin fusion proteins comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18 of the instant application and therefore anticipates the claimed invention. In particular, the Office alleges that Delta discloses a fusion of albumin and a growth hormone. As discussed above, the Office has interpreted "Therapeutic protein X" as encompassing any "polypeptide, antibody, peptide, fragments or variants thereof." See Office Action, sentence bridging pages 5 and 6. However, the claims now define "Therapeutic protein X" as those proteins listed in Table 1 of the specification. The growth hormone taught by Delta is not listed in Table 1 as one of the proteins that fall within "Therapeutic protein X." Thus, Delta does not anticipate the instant claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that claims 4, 11-12, and 15-16 were considered free of prior art because they were not rejected as being anticipated by Delta. These claims were rejected under provisional statutory double patenting, which is now rendered moot, as discussed above. Thus, Applicants believe that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure - Copy of the original Declaration

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